

Southeast News

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REV. JOE EVANS

EASTER - 1969

March 30 - April 6, 1969

W. J. ANDES

This is Holy Week, recording the last week of activities of Jesus Christ before his death and resurrection. Our churches should use this week to remember those days of triumph and tragedy, loneliness and love.

Palm Sunday, March 30, records the glad procession of Jesus and his disciples with the acclaim of the crowd. Then follow debate and frustration on Monday and Tuesday. Wednesday is a day of quiet as a prelude to Maundy Thursday, when Jesus ate the Last Supper with his disciples. The quiet of the Garden of Gethsemane follows with the desperate prayer of Jesus to let the cup pass from him. Loud voices and blazing torches lead to the arrest of Jesus, his trial and his crucifixion on Good Friday. Saturday is the day of death and silence, but Easter Sunday, April 6, breaks forth with the proclamation, "He Is Risen".

"Each Gospel ends with this note of excitement and the compulsion to take this news to the world. The sheer joy and surprise of Easter gave wings to

(Continued on Page 4)

National Leaders To Speak At Annual Conference Meet

The third Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, April 26-27, 1969. Sessions will be held in Central Congregational Church (United Church of Christ), 2684 Clairmont Road, N. E., Atlanta, Ga. Central Church recently built a new edifice on the spacious grounds in Northeast Atlanta, and the Conference will be held there in less than a year after the new church building was occupied. Rev. Frederick A. Meyer is pastor.

Opening session will be called to order at 10:00 a. m. on Saturday, April 26, by the Moderator, Rev. Olin E. Sheppard, pastor of First and New Hope Churches, Roanoke, Alabama.

National leaders appearing on the program will include the Rev. Joe Evans, secretary of the United Church Council for Lay Life and Work.

Mr. Evans will represent the Executive Council of the denomination. He will speak on Saturday morning and preach the Conference sermon on Sunday morning. Mr. Helmich will be joined by a member of the staff of the United Church of Christ Council for Church and Ministry to discuss relationships between and leadership of clergy and laity.

The Constitution and By-Laws of the Southeast Conference provide that each church is entitled to three delegates. Churches having more than 100 members are entitled to one additional delegate for each additional 100 members or major fraction thereof. Ordained ministers and licentiates are entitled to vote if they hold standing in an association or the Conference.

The Annual Meeting concludes with the worship service on Sunday morning, April 27. Approximately 300 delegates and visitors from churches in the seven-state area of the Southeast Conference are expected to attend.



REV. HARTLAND H. HELMICH

A Letter To Pastors

Re: Resolutions, 1969

As chairman of the Resolutions Committee for the 1969 Annual Conference, April 26-27, Atlanta, Ga., I would make the following suggestions to pastors:

1. Renewal of the 1967 Conference report: That the committee solicit resolutions at least two months prior to Conference and circulate these resolutions among the churches for discussion. Please send these in.

2. Proposal that resolutions reach the floor of the Conference by four different ways:

- A. By action of local church or association (without alteration).
- B. By submission of individuals. To be submitted to the committee, subject to revision and recommendation of the committee.
- C. By Resolutions Committee itself.
- D. From the floor of Conference.

3. The Board of Directors urges churches and individuals to submit resolutions to the committee as suggested rather than waiting to present them on the floor of Conference.

4. That in the printing or processing

(Continued on Page 4)

MIDWAY HAS 97TH ANNIVERSARY

Midway Congregational Christian Church, McIntosh, Georgia, celebrated its 97th anniversary in a service at 11:30 a. m. on January 26, 1969. Many neighboring churches visited that Sunday morning. Midway Church also furnished lunch for everyone who came, about 200 attending, in Dorchester Center.

The anniversary sermon was given by Dr. William J. Andes, Conference Minister. The church choir, in new robes, was directed by Miss D. A. Robinson, organist.

The history of Midway Church began originally with the parent church organized in Dorchester, Mass., in 1630.

In 1695, some Congregationalists in South Carolina wrote to Dorchester, Mass., asking the mother church to send out a group to "encourage the settlement of churches and the promotion of religion in the Southern Plantations." This group arrived in Charleston on December 19. They began a settlement — Dorchester — 18 miles from Charleston.

Because the Dorchester, S. C., area was too small for the growing numbers, they secured a grant of 32,000 acres of land from the Legislature of Georgia in 1752. In that same year, 280 whites and 536 slaves moved to this new location, settling at a point halfway between the Altamaha and Ogeechee Rivers. They called the settlement "Midway", a name it bears today. The name Dorchester is also familiar — Dorchester Academy, Dorchester Station, and Dorchester Village — locally.

In 1754, the Midway Congregational Church was organized, and a building erected on the site where now stands the "Old Midway Church", today a historic landmark. There the slaves and slaveholders worshipped together.

The same burning desire for freedom and liberty which brought the early settlers from Europe to the shores of America was aflame in the hearts and souls of these Congregationalists who were the first people to settle in St. John's Parish, now called Liberty County. Perhaps one of the most important facts about these early settlers was their attitude toward the slaves. They regarded them as human beings, taught them the Congregationalist faith, and enforced the same moral codes on them as they did on themselves. After the close of the Civil War, the Negro

slaves constituted the entire membership of the "Old Midway Church".

About 1872, a young Negro Congregationalist minister came for the purpose of settling a school. There was no church building, but meetings were held under a bush arbor. In 1874 this young minister, Rev. Floyd Snelson, formally organized the present Midway Congregational Church, and a church building was erected on these grounds.

There have been periods of full-time leadership, periods of part-time leadership, and no leadership times. Around 1891, a Rev. A. Sims became pastor and gave a much needed boost. Unfortunately, a split developed in the church and Mr. Sims moved out with a large part of the membership and established what later became a Methodist Church.

Among ministers serving this church were: W. N. McLean, G. W. Hannah (during his service the parsonage was built), John T. Enwright, A. C. Curtright, Percel O. Alston, V. E. Jackson (when the present church building was constructed), and many others, some as part-time pastor and teacher at nearby Savannah State College.

In January 1966, Rev. Dr. James A. Eaton of the Savannah State College staff accepted the leadership of the church and became minister officially in June. Under his leadership, 35 members have been added, physical improvements made, including air conditioner, and now plans are being made for extension of the church and its program.

Ministers Convocation At Callaway Gardens

DATE: May 5, 6, 7, 1969

PLACE: Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Georgia

LEADER: Dr. Norman W. Jackson
Dean of Student Affairs
Eden Theological Seminary
Webster Groves, Missouri

CONVOCATION will grapple with the question, "How can we as ministers (ministers' wives, also) provide adequate leadership when the world around us is changing so and we have so many unanswered questions inside us?"

LaGrange United Has Dedication Service

LaGrange United Church of Christ, LaGrange, Georgia, held a Service of Dedication for New Equipment on Sunday, February 23, 1969.

Renovation and repair work had been done in the sanctuary and throughout the building. Carpet was installed, pew cushions were added, painting was done in all areas, and cabinets were added in classrooms.

Participating in the service were Dr. Jesse H. Dollar, Area Minister, Dr. David I. Naglee of LaGrange College, and Dr. William J. Andes, Conference Minister, who gave the sermon.

COCU Meets In Atlanta March 16-20

Progress toward a plan of union for the nine denominations in the Consultation on Church Union will be reported at the eighth annual meeting of the organization to be held in Atlanta, Georgia, March 16-20.

The commission appointed last year to prepare the plan of union is midway in its work toward presentation of a draft at the 1970 meeting. Delegates to the Atlanta meeting will have an opportunity to study the tentative outline and make suggestions for changes and refinements.

Also before the delegates will be the report of a committee which has been preparing guidelines for local church action on union and a report on the unification of special ministries by denominations.

This year, for the first time, the United Church of Christ will have a ten-member delegation. Rudolf G. Schade Jr. of LaGrange Park, Ill., has been appointed by President Ben M. Herbster to represent the youth of the denomination. Other members are: Dr. Herbster, Elmer J. F. Arndt, David G. Colwell, John P. Dillenberger, Robert B. Frieberg, James O. Gilliom, Roger Hazelton, Mrs. Nicholas F. Hood, and Howard E. Spragg.

The United Church of Christ has been involved since the very beginning. The eight other denominations are: African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, Christian Methodist Episcopal, The Christian Church (Disciples), Episcopal, Presbyterian U. S., United Methodist, and United Presbyterian.



Groundbreaking At First Church Nashville

Ten youths each took a small shovelful of dirt, but together they started a large hole that eventually will be a new Education Building for First Evangelical and Reformed Church, Nashville, Tennessee.

Sometime during the year, each member will have a visit from one of the consistorymen — not to ask for money, but to keep each informed on what is being done and to give an opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions.

At the groundbreaking service on February 9, there were 178 individuals worshipping at First Church.

Pastor John Roemer can be seen in the picture.

Television Series On World Development To Be Seen In April

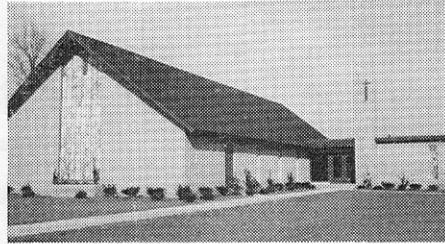
NBC-TV in cooperation with the National Council of Churches and the World Bank will present a four-part series in April on World Development.

Of the 28 cities singled out for attention, two are in the Southeast Conference area: Atlanta, Georgia, and Chattanooga, Tennessee.

People watching and discussing this series may be motivated to convey their opinions to their Congressman in order to inform him of the concern of people in the U. S. for world development.

The Council for Christian Social Action, 110 Maryland Ave. N. E., Washington, D. C. 20020, will supply any publicity, press kits, and resource materials needed for groups.

The program starts Easter Sunday, April 6, at 1:30 p. m. EST, and will be titled "The Challenge of a Closer Moon".



Dedication Service At Mt. Olive, Tallassee

On March 2, 1969, at 2:30 p. m., a Service of Dedication was held for Mt. Olive Congregational Christian Church, Route 1, Tallassee, Alabama. The Mt. Olive Church has just completed its new sanctuary, with six classrooms, a kitchen, fellowship hall, and several rest rooms. A minister's study is also included in the new set-up.

Many friends of the church came to the service. Chaplain Raymond Pritz sang a number of solos, and others involved in the service were the pastor, Rev. Cliff B. Smith, Rev. John E. Rhodes, Mr. Freddie Powell, Rev. John W. Wilder of Sanford, N. C., and several local people.

The church will seat 240 people. The building cost approximately \$53,000. Plans for the building were made over a period of five years, during which time the congregation collected about \$22,000 before starting to build.

The church is completely furnished throughout.

The pastor, Rev. Clifford Smith, also serves as pastor of the East Tallassee Church, the two churches now forming a pastorate. Services are held each Sunday at both places, both in the morning and in the evening, the E. Tallassee Church having the earlier service in the morning.

Kentucky Council Holds 21st Annual Assembly

What many have called "the best assembly we have ever had", was held when the Kentucky Council of Churches met November 21, 1968, at Elizabethtown for the Council's 21st Annual Assembly. All member units were officially represented except two.

The program was given to several presentations by denominational leaders on the subject "The Crisis in the Nation — What My Denomination Is Doing."

One of the important matters of the assembly was the presentation of "The Ecumenical Climate in Kentucky", by



Russell Teal Fills Pulpit At New Hope

While Dr. F. C. Lester, interim pastor, was on a few weeks leave of absence from his duties, Russell Teal took his place in the pulpit at Clio, New Hope, Church.

Russell is a member of the church and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Teal. The church appreciates the willingness of Russell in taking the responsibility of these services, and he has done a good job.

Russell will continue his college training for the ministry.

Trinity, Caddo, Women Meet

The Ladies Missionary Society of Caddo Congregational Christian Church are making plans to sell chicken stew to raise money to buy equipment for the church kitchen. A stove and refrigerator have been donated, and a well has been dug for the church.

The ladies also made plans for the Easter program. The young people of the church will have charge of the services on the third Sunday in March.

Mrs. Vera Bond, Church Clerk

William H. Poore (deceased 11-26-68). This was a summary of the findings and recommendations of the Committee on Faith and Order.

Another matter of interest was the decision to enlist in the new Through-the-Week Christian Education now being enacted by many religious groups in the nation.

Decision was made to co-sponsor a regional Faith and Order Consultation and to sponsor a Consultation on the Aging within the next two years.

Ordination Service Held For Benjamin T. Jordan

On Sunday evening, February 23, in Central Congregational Church, Atlanta, Georgia, Mr. Benjamin T. Jordan was given full ordination by the Georgia-South Carolina Association of the Southeast Conference. The service of ordination was preceded by a Vicinage Council, in which Mr. Jordan presented a statement of his faith and religious experience.

Those participating in the service of ordination were Rev. Edward Simmons, Rev. Robert Myers, Rev. L. Floyd Carmack, Prof. Clinton Gardner, Rev. Germinal Rivas, Mr. Franklin Thomas, Rev. Homer C. McEwen, Rev. W. J. Andes, Rev. Fred Meyer, and the Central Church Choir.

Mr. Jordan gave the benediction.

NEWS BRIEFS

During Lent, Robert W. Boston, pastor of Circular Church in Charleston, is preaching a series of contemporary sermons based on the Beatitudes.

* * * *

United Congregational Christian Church, LaGrange, Ga., has voted to transfer to the East Alabama Association from the Georgia-South Carolina Association, since the church is much more adjacent to the East Alabama Association, in physical proximity as well as being involved in the programs of the East Alabama Association.

* * * *

Two Conferences for Pastors will be held at LaForet, Colorado, this summer — July 6-17, and July 20-31, 1969. You must arrange for your own transportation, but there will be no cost for room and board. "Taking a good, honest look at yourself" will be part of the theme, which is also for professional church leaders. A limited number of wives may attend. For brochure, write the Conference Office.

EASTER — 1969

(Continued from Page 1)

their feet as the disciples became witnesses of a Lord who had gone through death to a glorious victory over the grave. Did he not say, 'As the Father has sent me, even so send I you?'

(Theophil W. Menzel)

PRAYER: May the joy of his victory, O God, lift up the hearts of all who stand before the tomb. This is the great gift to us, that Christ is risen. Amen.

New Hope, Clio, Lists Sermon Topics For Lent

March 16 — "Teaching Religion as Practiced by Jesus, and Us"

March 23 — "What Can We Do About Sin?"

March 30 — "The Great Procession" (Triumphal Entry) (Palm Sunday)

March 31—"Fruitful Living, or Death" (Barren Fig Tree, Dirty Temple)

April 1 — "Play-Acting, Hypocrisy" (A Day of Argument)

April 2 — "Surrounded by Love" (Jesus rested in home in Bethany.)

April 3 — Maundy Thursday Communion. "In Remembrance"

April 4 — Good Friday, "The Magnetic Cross, His and Mine"

April 6 — Easter, "A Foretaste of Eternal Life"

Dr. F. C. Lester, as pastor, says the Sunday evening services will be varied and different. There will be singing, discussion, devotions, and fellowship.

Crossville Church Plays Coloquy's 'Poverty Game'

A game instead of a sermon is a departure from the ordinary, but in Crossville, Tennessee, the United Church of Christ there is accustomed to drama in the pulpit.

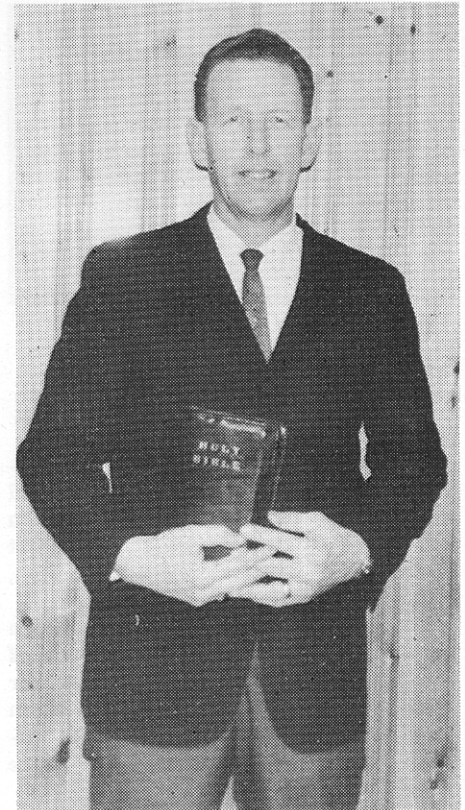
A group of 6th, 7th, and 8th graders, led by Mrs. W. Richard Wilson, presented a pantomime drama, using the suggestions from COLOQUY magazine, March, 1969. Entitled "The Poverty Game", the drama shows the dynamics of poverty amidst affluence. It is a resource for those looking for new teaching-learning models for Christian education.

'Behold The Man' To Be Seen In Atlanta Again

"Behold the Man", seen by 48,000 people in Atlanta Stadium last year, is scheduled again for Saturday and Sunday, April 26 and 27, 8:00 p. m., at the Atlanta Stadium.

Dr. William Holmes Borders, pastor of Wheat Street Baptist Church, and Frank Marshall Roughton will each portray Christ in one of the two performances.

The purpose of "Behold The Man", which is being sponsored by the Christian Council of Metro Atlanta, is to bring Christians of all traditions together in one great night of worship.



Rev. Millard E. Sims, who was ordained February 9 at Duncan's Creek Church, where he is now pastor.

Birmingham Pilgrim To Add To OCWM Giving

The Pilgrim Congregational Church, Birmingham, has not been making proper O. C. W. M. payments. The church is most conscious of this and one attempt to correct partially this situation is made by the Women's Fellowship in publishing a meats cookbook. One dollar from every cookbook sold by the women of the church will go at once to OCWM and ten cents from every cookbook you sell.

A LETTER TO PASTORS

(Continued from Page 1)

of the minutes of the 1969 Conference, the record should indicate what action or lack of action the Conference took regarding these resolutions.

I would like to add my own hope that if this procedure is followed, churches will not instruct their representatives on how to vote on specific issues, but rather acquaint them with their convictions. It is important that our conference in its gathering be free to respond to the leading of God's Spirit there.

David Lewis Beebe, Chairman



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what do your gifts
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• ministerial training through theological
seminaries

SEMINARY ENROLLMENT UP

Seminary enrollment of UCC students increased this year to a new five-year high of 980 persons. This marks a significant advance of 122 students over 1967-68 level. Figures compiled by the Council for Church and Ministry indicate a steady trend toward increasing percentage of UCC students attending non-UCC seminaries.

In addition to an overall increase in number of students entering seminary programs for the first time, there are significant increases in those preparing for advanced degrees. Three seminaries, Eden, Andover-Newton, and Lancaster, report an increased number of ordained ministers returning to school on a full-time basis as part of a Continuing Education program.

Of 73 seminaries questioned, 45 report UCC students enrolled. Of these, two — Andover-Newton and Eden — report a total of 256 students, 26% of the total number of UCC students.

Why Have Church Camp For Juniors?

For the first time, the summer of 1969 will provide opportunities for junior age boys and girls of grades 5 and 6 to attend church camp at several locations in the Southeast Conference. This is an exciting new dimension in our summer ministry with children.

Why church camp for juniors? Church camping can help them find the Christian conviction on their own level for their day-by-day experiences. If a boy or girl works, plays, lives, and learns with other juniors and with adult leaders other than his parents, his horizons are broadened and his relationships deepened.

Furthermore, of all institutions, the church alone takes the initiative in sharing the Christian gospel, bringing to camping many facets of the Christian's rich heritage. Outdoor group living makes a natural setting in which to use the Bible in life situations.

Church camping provides a spring-

SEC Members Attend Florida Winter Chatauqua

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Thomas of First Church, Atlanta, Dr. and Mrs. Jesse Dollar of Roanoke, Alabama, and Mrs. F. C. Lester attended the Winter Chatauqua sponsored by the Florida Conference of the United Church of Christ, February 23-March 1, at Avon Park.

board for a year-round relationship between campers and adult counselors, perhaps even a lifetime relationship.

Dates and locations of junior camping opportunities are:

Alabama (Camp Anderson Creek)
July 20-26; August 3-9
Georgia (Roosevelt State Park)
August 11-16
Georgia and South Carolina (Dorchester Center)
August 10-16
Tennessee (Camp Ozone)
July 13-18; July 27-August 2

Plan your family schedules now so your junior can attend one of these fine church camps. Further details will be announced later.

Percel O. Alston Is Given New Post

The Rev. Percel O. Alston, a member of the Christian Education Division Staff of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries since 1964, will have primary responsibility for the division's relationships with the conferences in his new post as director of field program.

This new position was previously part of the portfolio of Rev. Scott Libbey. Mr. Alston has been a secretary for leadership development.

In addition to conference relationships and liaison with the Christian Education Council, Mr. Alston will be responsible for coordination of staff field schedules and programs, coordination of leadership development related to field program and the Christian Education Careers program.

Before coming to the staff of the Division of Christian Education in 1964, he served for nine and a half years as associate superintendent and minister of Christian Education of the former Convention of the South.

Born in Norfolk, Virginia, Mr. Alston has degrees from Virginia Union, Andover Newton, and studied at Boston U.

New President Inaugurated At Catawba College

Dr. Martin L. Shotzberger, new president of Catawba College, will be formally inaugurated on Friday, March 28.

Dr. Shotzberger, who came to Catawba at the beginning of the current school year, is the 16th president of the college and was named to the post succeeding the late Dr. Donald C. Dearborn (1963-67).

The inauguration will take place at 2:30 p. m. in Keppel Auditorium with a public reception in the Crystal lounge at 4:15 p. m.

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UPLANDS NEWS

From many local churches across our land, groups and individuals sent boxes of clothing and other gifts for distribution, not only to residents on the Uplands campus, but also to needy folk throughout the community.

Early in December the Christmas Room was opened, bringing joy to many of the local people of the mountains. Wherever possible, the parents came to the Christmas Room to select articles for their families. Uplands staff members filled boxes for needy families who could not come to choose their own gifts.

Hundreds of articles of clothing, toys, jewelry, and cosmetics went to many people whose homes and lives were brightened at this Christmas season through the generosity of friends of Uplands in places far and near. Residents of the retirement village wrapped gifts for the nursing home patients so that those who have no families would not feel lonely and neglected at Christmas time.

The Uplands Children's Fund, started some years ago through the generosity of the Baird Foundation of New York City and increased over the years through contributions from the United Fund of Cumberland County and gifts of concerned individuals, gives assistance when critically needed to children growing up on the Cumberland Plateau.

Originally, most of the assistance was in the form of medical care. It has now branched out to include provision of food and clothing and other forms of assistance to mountain area children whose needs might otherwise be totally neglected. On numerous occasions the Fund has cared for hospital bills and also provided children with wheelchairs, braces, and other equipment needs during post-hospital weeks.

* * * *

Recently, a woman, twenty-six years old and divorced, returned to this area from another state. Within a short time her baby was born in a hospital in another county. When the baby was four days old the mother left the hospital and deposited the sick child at the home of her twenty-year-old brother, leaving him with full responsibility for

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- medical care through hospitals like Ryder in Puerto Rico




Photo by Robert Newman

her hospital bill and the future care of the child.

This young brother was already supporting his wife, his child, and his aged grandmother. The baby had convulsions and the uncle took the child to a hospital for emergency treatment. The hospital refused to admit the baby because no money was available immediately to pay for the child's care.

The young uncle made efforts to borrow money, trying to arrange a loan, though it would take him years to repay the money. He finally appealed to Uplands and the Children's Fund supplied funds needed for the child to receive care from a specialist in a Nashville hospital. The child finally recovered, and later the mother returned and took it back.

This is only one incident, among many, where help was provided by the Uplands Children's Fund through the Baird Foundation.

* * * *

Miss Etusko Hirano of Tokyo, Japan, arrived at Pleasant Hill at the end of November to serve for ten months as a volunteer worker at Uplands. Just prior to her arrival, she served as a trainee at Pottstown, Pa., in the Voluntary Service Program of the Department of Specialized Ministries of the Division of Christian Education of the Board for Homeland Ministries of the United Church of Christ.

She is the fifth such trainee to assist in the work here and is serving in the Child Care Center.

Veazeys Are Honored For Moonelon Service

Rev. and Mrs. Guy H. Veazey were honored by the Board of Managers for Moonelon Center on Saturday, February 8, 1969, in the Student Center Lounge at Elon College. This special meeting was to express appreciation on behalf of the Board and the thousands of young people and adults who visited Moonelon during the fourteen years of service given to the Center by the Veazeys.

As resident caretaker of Moonelon, Mr. Veazey spent many hours keeping it in order for groups who used the facilities. Mrs. Veazey was responsible for the fine meals prepared for groups not included in the regular summer camp and conference program. They will remain in their home on the Moonelon Road near Elon College, N. C., and from time to time they will be seen by visitors anxious to see the Center and these gracious people who have been their friends through the years.

Our sympathy is extended to the Veazeys in the death of his sister, Mrs. G. W. Walker of Wadley, Alabama. Mr. Veazey served churches in the Southeast Conference before going to the Southern Conference. He returns each summer for a family reunion in Alabama. Mrs. Veazey is a native of Virginia, having lived near Shenandoah, Va.